

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1478

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 19693

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM RECEIVED FOR ACTION FROM AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI
18 SEP 75 REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CHIANG MAI 0232

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, TH, BM

SUBJECT: DISSIDENCE AMONG THE DISSIDENTS--THE KACHIN COUP

1. SUMMARY--IN SCENARIO RIVALING "AS THE WORLD TURNS,"
KACHIN INDEPENDENCE ARMY (KIA) HAS ELIMINATED ITS LEADER-
SHIP FOR DIPPING TOO FREELY INTO THE TILL. ASSASSINATIONS
RECEIVED ONLY MINIMAL PRESS ATTENTION AS NEW LEADERSHIP
QUIETLY TOOK COMMAND. END SUMMARY.

2. AUG 23 EDITION OF THE NATION CARRIED ARTICLE DATED
RANGOON STATING THAT KIA LEADERS ZAU ZAENG AND ZAU TU
ALONG WITH SECRETARY GENERAL PON SWE WERE KILLED AUG 11
BY "ANGRY MEMBERS OF THE BURMESE ETHNIC ORGANIZATION."
FROM VARIOUS SOURCES CONSULATE HAS PIECED TOGETHER FOLLOW-
ING SCENARIO FOR KIA COUP. ON AUG 6 ZAU TU AND PON SWE
WERE INVITED TO TAM NGOP TO MEET WITH ZAU ZAENG IN
PREPARATION FOR CEASE-FIRE NEGOTIATIONS IN KACHIN STATE
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SUPPOSEDLY PROPOSED BY GUB. BOTH LEADERS ALONG WITH

AIDE TO ZAU TU WERE AMBUSHED AND KILLED ALONG TRAIL. ZAU ZENG (BROTHER OF ZAU TU) WAS ALSO INVITED AND ASSASSINATED WHEN HE REACHED TAM NGOP ON AUG 10. COUP WAS ENGINEERED BY LT. SENG TU, AGE 29, WHO WAS FORMERLY AIDE TO ZAU ZAENG AND HAS NOW PROMOTED SELF TO RANK OF LT. COLONEL AND BEEN PUT IN CHARGE OF OFFICE OF KACHIN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. GEN. ZAU MAI WAS NAMED CHIEF OF STAFF AND IS REPORTEDLY COMING TO THAILAND SOMETIME IN SEPT.

3. MOTIVATION FOR COUP WAS HIGH LIVING AND MISUSE OF KIA FUNDS. ZAU BROTHERS WERE CRITICIZED FOR SPENDING TOO MUCH TIME IN THAILAND, ACQUIRING MORE WIVES THAN PERMITTED BY KACHIN CUSTOM, AND LIVING IT UP HERE ON HARD-EARNED KIA MONEY. AFTER KILLINGS JIMMY THANG ZA DAL OF THE ZUMI NATIONAL ARMED FORCES ALONG WITH SEVERAL OTHERS WAS SENT AS ENVOY TO ZAU ZAENG'S WIFE (REPORTEDLY NIECE OF LT.COL. SENG TU) IN BANGKOK REQUESTING SHE TURN OVER BANK ACCOUNT. SHE FLED SCENE (WITH MONEY), AND THAI IMMIGRATION JAILED JIMMY. ANOTHER ACTOR WHOSE ROLE IS UNCERTAIN IS A COL. ZAU GAM WHO APPEARED ON SCENE IN MID AUGUST AND TOLD CONSULATE FSL ABOUT PROPOSED CEASE-FIRE NEGOTIATIONS. FANG IMMIGRATION OFFICER SAYS COL. ZAU GAM IS ALIAS FOR ZAU ONG WHO RAN AWAY TO U.S. WITH MISSIONARY BETTY MORSE AND 30,000 BAHT KIA FUNDS SOME SEVEN YEARS AGO. ZAU GAM/ONG MAY HAVE BEEN USED TOTPURE KIA LIADERSHIP INTO TRAP. AFTER HIS ARREST, JIMMY THANG ZA DAL ATTEMPTED TO CONTACT ZAU GAM, BUT LATTER HAS AGAIN DISAPPEARED.

4. NEW LEADERSHIP LIST AS TURNED OVER TO THAI SUPREME COMMAND IS AS FOLLOWS: BRANG SENG, PRESIDENT/FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER; GEN. ZAU MAI, VICE PRESIDENT/DEFENSE MINISTER/CHIEF OF STAFF; ZAUNG HRA, INTERIOR MINISTER; BRIG. TU JAI, FINANCE MINISTER/VICE CHIEF OF STAFF; MAJ. KARN HTOI, JUSTICE MINISTER/1ST BRIGADE COMMANDER: MAJ. ZAN ZENG, 2ND BRIGADE COMMANDER; MAJ. BRANG TAUNG, 3RD BRIGADE COMMANDER; AND MAJ. LA SAM, 4TH BRIGADE COMMANDER.
HARBIN UNQUOTE.
MASTERS
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